

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus, comprising:
 - a. a structure that defines a cargo compartment having a lateral portion,
 - b. a supply-conduit adjacent the lateral portion and adapted to receive therewithin a fluid from outside the cargo compartment, and
 - c. a vent through the supply-conduit adapted to conduct the fluid within the supply-conduit into the cargo compartment.
2. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a controller having an input port adapted to receive a fluid and an output port adapted to supply the received fluid, wherein the output port is connected to supply fluid to the supply-conduit and the controller is operable to urge an environmental-component of the supplied fluid toward a desired value.
3. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the environmental component is temperature.
4. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the environmental component is humidity.
5. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a return-conduit having a first end connected to the cargo compartment and a second end connected to the input port of the controller and operable to conduct fluid from the cargo compartment to the controller.

6. An apparatus as claimed in claim 5, further comprising a pump connected in series with the controller, the supply-conduit, and the return conduit and operable to urge fluid therethrough.
7. An apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the fluid comprises air.
8. An apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the cargo compartment further includes a corrugated floor.
9. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vent is elongated and substantially vertical.
10. An apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the vent extends substantially from the top of the cargo compartment to the bottom of the cargo compartment.
11. An apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the vent defines a plurality of holes through the supply-conduit adapted to conduct the fluid within the supply-conduit into the cargo compartment.
12. An apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the vent defines an elongated slot through the supply-conduit adapted to conduct the fluid within the supply-conduit into the cargo compartment.
13. An apparatus as claimed in either claim 11 or claim 12, wherein the interior cross-section of the supply-conduit varies inversely with the distance between the cross-section and the fluid supply as measured along the longitudinal axis of the supply-conduit.
14. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the supply-conduit is formed integrally from the structure.

15. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the supply-conduit is separate from the structure.
16. An apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the supply-conduit is attached to the lateral portion of the cargo compartment.
17. An apparatus as claimed in either claim 14 or claim 15, wherein the supply-conduit is substantially within the cargo compartment.
18. An apparatus as claimed in either claim 14 or claim 15, wherein the supply-conduit is substantially outside the cargo compartment.
19. A method, comprising supplying a controlled fluid into a cargo compartment having a lateral portion, wherein the fluid is supplied through a vent in a supply-conduit adjacent the lateral portion.
20. A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising controlling the temperature of the fluid.
21. A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising controlling the humidity of the fluid.
22. A method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising extracting the fluid from the cargo compartment.
23. A method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising recirculating the fluid.
24. A method as claimed in claim 23, further comprising pumping the fluid.
25. A method as claimed in claim 24, wherein supplying a fluid comprises supplying air.

26. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the fluid is supplied at more than one elevation within the cargo compartment.
27. A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the fluid is supplied at a plurality of discrete elevations within the cargo compartment.
28. A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the fluid is supplied substantially continuously between an upper elevation and a lower elevation within the cargo container.
29. A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein a substantially similar volume of fluid is supplied at each of the more than one elevations within the cargo compartment.
30. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the fluid is supplied through a supply-conduit formed integrally from the structure forming of the cargo compartment.
31. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the fluid is supplied through a supply-conduit separate from the structure that forms the cargo compartment.
32. A method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the supply-conduit is attached to the lateral portion of the cargo compartment.
33. A method as claimed in either claim 30 or claim 31, wherein the fluid is supplied through a supply-conduit substantially within the cargo compartment.

34. A method as claimed in either claim 30 or claim 31, wherein the fluid is supplied through a supply-conduit substantially outside the cargo compartment.